THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) Government had recently entrusted a study to M/s Rabo India Finance Limited for ascertaining potential and preparing vision, strategy and action plan for growth of food processing industries in the country. As per their report, potential of the raw material *i.e.* 79% apple production pertains to J&K 24% mango and 45% papaya to Andhra Pradesh 62% litchi to Bihar, 39% potato and 58% peas to Uttar Pradesh, 59% tapioca to Tamil Nadu, 75% grape and 28% banana to Maharashtra etc. Government has implemented several Plan Schemes for promotion of food processing industries in the country. Financial assistance is provided for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Recently in 2004-05 Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro-processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty on processed fruits & vegetable products has been waived. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Union Budget for 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg. on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg. on Vanaspati abolished and customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

Criminal cases against doctors

3430. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases registered against erring doctors for sex selection and female foeticide in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) how many of them have been challaned during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) how many of them have ended in conviction during last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) what steps Government contemplate to take to put an effective check on such nefarious malpractices of unethical doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A total of 357 cases are going on in various courts in the country for violations of the Provisions of Pre-Conception & Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PC & PNDT Act) Act, 1994 as on 30.11.2006. Out of these, 37 cases have been filed in respect of "communication of sex of foetus". The State-wise break up of total number of cases including those filed against" communication sex of foetus" is enclosed.

In the State of Punjab, final prosecution has been awarded in one case, however the court released the doctor on probation with a bond of Rs. 10,000 for a period of 1 year. The Punjab Medical Council as per the provisions of PC & PNDT Act has suspended the registration of the accused for period of 5 years. Similarly, in other three cases, where the charges have been framed by the courts, the State Medical Council has suspended the registration of three doctors for a period of 5 years or till the decision of the hon'ble court.

(d) Under the provisions of the PC & PNDT Act, District Appropriate Authorities and District Advisory Committees have been constituted to monitor the implementation of the Act at district level. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee undertakes periodical visits to the districts to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Act. A Support and Monitoring Cell on sex selection and PC & PNDT Act is being established with the objective to enable Ministry of Health and Family Welfare policy monitoring role and to establish necessary linkages to better address the issue of sex selection and to strengthen the capability of Appropriate Authority in supervision and monitoring of the Act and to train them in preparing case papers for filing in the courts.

Statement

Details of ongoing cases filed against violators of the PC & PNDT Act/ Rules (As on 30.11.05)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Non-registeration	Non-maintenance of records	Communication of sex of foetus	Advt. about prenatal/ conception diagnostic facilities	Other violations of Act/ Rules	Total cases (columns 3 to 7)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	-	-	-	-	8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	6	-	-	-	-	6
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Gujarat	9	10	-	3	4	26
8	Haryana	2	4	12	5	-	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	15	-	1	-	4	20
13	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	-	4	-	5
15	Maharashtra	31	1	8	6	-	46
16	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21	Punjab	13	11	13	-	30	67
22	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	3	3
23	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	45	-	1	1	-	47
25	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Uttaranchal	-	-	2	1	-	3
27	Uttar Pradesh	17	-	-	1	-	18
28	West Bengal	10	-	-	-	-	10
29	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	D & N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Delhi	69	-	-	6	-	75
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL:	226	26	37	27	41	357

Subsidy to Iodised salt

†3431. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16 crore people are suffering from the deficiency of iodine including 6 crore children in the country;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to overcome the deficiency of iodine; and

(c) whether the iodised salt would be made affordable by providing subsidy?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.